

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

25 March 2010

Present:-

Councillors Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Healey, Leaves (Chairman) and Woodman

Apologies:-

Councillor Manning

***CSCPC/10. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2010 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/11. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to consider whether they had any personal/personal and prejudicial interests in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

***CSCPC/12. Further Update on the Implementation of the Partnership Framework and Other Evaluation Tools**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSCP/10/4) that updated the Committee on the progress made following the successful introduction of the Partnership Framework. This work had been supplemented with the commissioning of a full review of the Framework and sampling of one of the existing and one proposed partnerships. The reviews, with Torbay Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Probation Service in the Exeter had been commenced and the outcome would be reported to the Committee in due course.

The Director of Service Delivery made reference to the re-launch of the Partnership Framework on 17 May 2010 and encouraged Members of the Committee to attend to support this event. He indicated that this event would be attended by representatives of the higher level partnerships and was an opportunity to highlight the progress made. He made reference to the partnership that had been established with the Probation Service in particular on restorative justice that was to be based at Danescastle station. He added that the partnership framework would assist in providing an audit trail or this and other partnerships which was important in terms of external validation in particular.

The further progress made on the review of the Partnership Framework, along with the progress on other evaluation processes was noted.

***CSCPC/13. Specialist Rescue - Progress**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCP/10/5) that set out the progress that had been made to date with the implementation of specialist rescue activity within Devon and Somerset. The report set out the objectives to be achieved by this project, together with the progress made against these objectives.

The Committee noted that the progress made included:

- 15 officers had now completed an 18 month development period to enable them to act as specialist rescue advisors for incidents involving flooding, adverse weather, rescues from height, depth and confined spaces;
- Four stations have been upgraded to specialist rescue team status – Camels Head, Barnstaple, Bridgwater and Special Operations;
- Powered rescue boats, engines and trailers have been purchased;
- Four specialist vehicles have been ordered which will provide both water and rope rescue capability as well as being able to transport the powered boats,
- Large animal rescue capability is being progressed with the purchase of equipment and training underway.

The Chief Fire Officer commented that he was proud of what had been achieved within Devon and Somerset and that the Service had a rescue capability which was much more advanced than many other services in the country. He added that there were approximately 200 rescues from floods each year and that this demonstrated that this capability was making a difference and improving public safety. He suggested that a meeting of the Committee could be held on one of the four specialist rescue stations with a demonstration either preceding or following of the faculties available. He indicated that arrangements would be put into place for this in due course, and that Members of the Committee would be furnished with a choice of dates as appropriate.

The Committee commended the officers involved for the work that had been undertaken in achieving the new rescue capabilities within Devon and Somerset. It was suggested that a press release should be issued highlighting the progress made, whereupon it was noted that a full launch of the specialist rescue capabilities was to be held in September 2010 following the delivery of the first of the new powered boats.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.30hours